Gauge conversion of Bareilly-Tanakpur rail line

†377. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to convert the Bareilly-Tanakpur meter gauge line into broad gauge;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the alternative steps proposed to be taken for the convenience of persons belonging to Champawat and Pithoragarh districts adjoining Tanakpur and those belonging to frontier Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The gauge conversion of Bareilly-Bhojipura has been taken up as a part of Kanpur-Kasganj-Mathura-Bareilly-Lalkua (544.50 Kms) gauge conversion project. Further, the proposal of gauge conversion of Bhojipura-Tanakpur has been processed for necessary approvals.

(c) Does not arise.

Train dacoities in Jharkhand

†378. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of train dacoities in Jharkhand during each year of the last three years;

(b) whether any passenger was killed during the said incidents; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to control such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The number of dacoities reported in trains in Jharkhand during the last three years *i.e.* 2004, 2005 and 2006 (upto September) is as under:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	No. of dacoities reported
2004	23
2005	22
2006(from January to September)	14

(b) No, Sir.

(c) According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of Constitution of India, Police'(including Railways and village Police), is a State subject. Registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the State Police. The State Police have a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways.

To effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff are being deployed to escort many trains and also on access control duties in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF has also been empowered to deal with minor offences affecting the train operations such as alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting ticketless travel, unauthorized entry into coaches earmarked for ladies etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) with the amendment to the Railways Act, 1989 *w.e.f.* July 2004.

Exemption from paying dividend to build freight corridor

379. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approached Government for five years exemption from paying dividend to build freight corridor;

(b) if so, how this help would raise the railway fund;

(c) the loss expected to be suffered by Government;

(d) whether such helps have also been given in the past; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the expected decision of Government in this regard?